of 1974 and 1976, has been discussed by the Government with the Government of Sri Lanka, including at the Foreign Secretary level talks held recently.

Amendment to Haj Act

657. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amendment of Haj Act is under positive consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what is the present stage of consideration; and

(c) by when a new bill is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament on the Haj Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Government have been planning to introduce a new bill on Haj to replace the existing Haj Committee Act (No. 51) of 1959.

(b) The legislative proposals to be incorporated in the Bill are under active consideration.

(c) The new Bill is proposed to be introduced at an early date, after all aspects have been examined.

New Sino-India border pact

658. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new border policy with China was laid down by way of the new Sino-India border pact signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken for implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) During the Prime Minister's visit to China, the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility Along the Line of Actual Control on the India-China Border Areas was signed in Beijing on September 7, 1993.

(b) A copy of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic f China on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas, has been placed in the Parliament Library;

(c) Details regarding implementation of the agreement will be worked out by diplomatic and military experts under the India-China Joint working Group (JWG). The first meeting of the expert group is expected to be convened early next year.

Statement by Pakistan High Commissioner on Kashmir issue

659. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent utterances of Pakistan High Commissioner regarding the Kashmir issue and its attempt to internationalise the dispute; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard to the violation of the diplomatic ethics by the High Commissioner of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Speaking to the press at Madras (1|9|93). Pakistan High Commissioner reportedly claims that Simla Agreement does not prohibit Pakistan from raising the Jammu & Kashmir issue at international fora. Pakistan High Commissioner also stated that Pakistan was willing to have Bilateral negotiations on the Kashmir issue.

Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue are in violation of the Simla Agreement and vitilate the atmosphere of bilateral relations. Government are committed to resolve all differences with Pakistan peacefully and through bilateral negotiations. In this context, Government have proposed comprehensive dialogue with Pakistan. This offer has been accepted by Pakistan. The Foreign Secretaries of the two countries are scheduled to meet in Islamabad from 1—3 January, 1994.

Discussions held with South Africa's Foreign Minister

660. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South Africa's Foreign Minister R. F. Botha during his recent visit to New Delhi made a proposal for the formation of an Economic Bloc comprising of India, Pakistan, South Africa, Gulf Countries and the East African States; and

(b) if so, what has been the reaction of Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) South Africa's Foreign Minister Mr. R. F. Botha during his recent visit to New Delhi expressed the view that littoral countries of Indian Ocean including those mentioned should explore possibilities of intensified economic co-operation.

(b) Government of India is taking an active interest in this suggestion.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to New York

661. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he recently visited New York to attend the UN General Assembly meetings;

(b) if so, what specific issues were discussed therein; and what resolution were passed by the Assembly; and

(c) what is Government's response in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The General Assembly discussed a number of important issues pertaining to international security disarmament, human rights, economics, financial and legal matters. We held a number of meetings with delegations from other member States during which these issues including Pakistan's move to internationalise the question of Jammu and Kashmir, were discussed. These meetings proved fruitful.

The UN General Assembly is still in Session and the Indian delegation is playing an active and constructive role of projecting our view points on the various agenda items under consideration.

श्री प्रभाकरण को गिरफ्तार करने के लिये श्रीलंका के साथ प्रत्यर्पण संधि

662. **श्री बहादेव आनन्द पात्सवान:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि स्वर्गीय श्री राजीव गांधी की हत्या के मामले में प्रमुख अभियुक्त श्री प्रभाकरण श्रीलंका के जाफना क्षेत्र में छिपा हुआ है; और

(ख) क्या सरकार प्रमुख अभियुक्त श्री प्रभाकरण को श्रीलंका से प्रत्यर्पण संधि करके भारत में लाने का विचार रखती है; यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया): (क) जी नहीं। स्वर्गीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी